

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 11, 2014

The Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

We are writing to you with respect to the Federal Communications Commission's implementation of the spectrum provisions of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. Congress passed those provisions to achieve a number of important goals: 1) to provide \$7 billion in funding to build a nationwide, wireless, interoperable public safety network; 2) to meet consumers' ever-increasing demand for mobile broadband by repurposing television broadcast spectrum; and 3) to generate further auction proceeds to provide for significant reduction of the national debt. Of course, in order to meet the revenue goals, television broadcasters must be incentivized to give up some of their spectrum by being fairly compensated. Achieving these goals will be challenging for the Commission but absolutely critical for our nation.

As you may recall, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the "9/11 Commission") recommended the construction of a state of art communications network, however, twelve years later this has yet to be implemented. The construction and operation of this network will be essential when the next disaster strikes and our first responders are called upon to protect our homeland and save lives from either man-made disasters, such as the 9/11 attacks, or natural disasters like Hurricanes Sandy or Katrina.

Equally important is the country's ability to meet exploding consumer demand for new and more robust mobile broadband technology by providing the necessary spectrum. A recently-released survey by Cisco indicated that American demand for mobile broadband will increase by eight-fold over the next five years. The technology and wireless industries' ability to innovate and invest to meet this increasing demand will depend on the availability of spectrum to support new technologies. Private investment in hardware innovation, mobile application development, and wireless network infrastructure is one of the most promising sources of short and long-term economic growth for our country. There is little doubt that the success of the spectrum auction will have a significant impact for the United States economy given that so many industries rely on advanced, mobile and reliable communications to expand, hire and invest.

For the auction to be a success, the Commission should maximize participation by both broadcasters incented to relinquish their spectrum rights and bidders seeking to buy those rights

in the spectrum auction. In fact, inviting as many bidders as possible to compete in an open and fair auction on equal terms will allow for the full market price for spectrum to be realized and, in turn, lead to higher compensation to incent greater broadcaster participation resulting in more spectrum for the auction. This approach will also ensure sufficient funding for the construction of a world class, high-speed wireless broadband public safety network and make available the spectrum needed to keep pace with the nations mobile broadband needs and support a pro-growth economy.

Sincerely,

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